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Former Wake Forest High star is Heisman contender 1B

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'Lady Bird' rises above with stellar performances 1C

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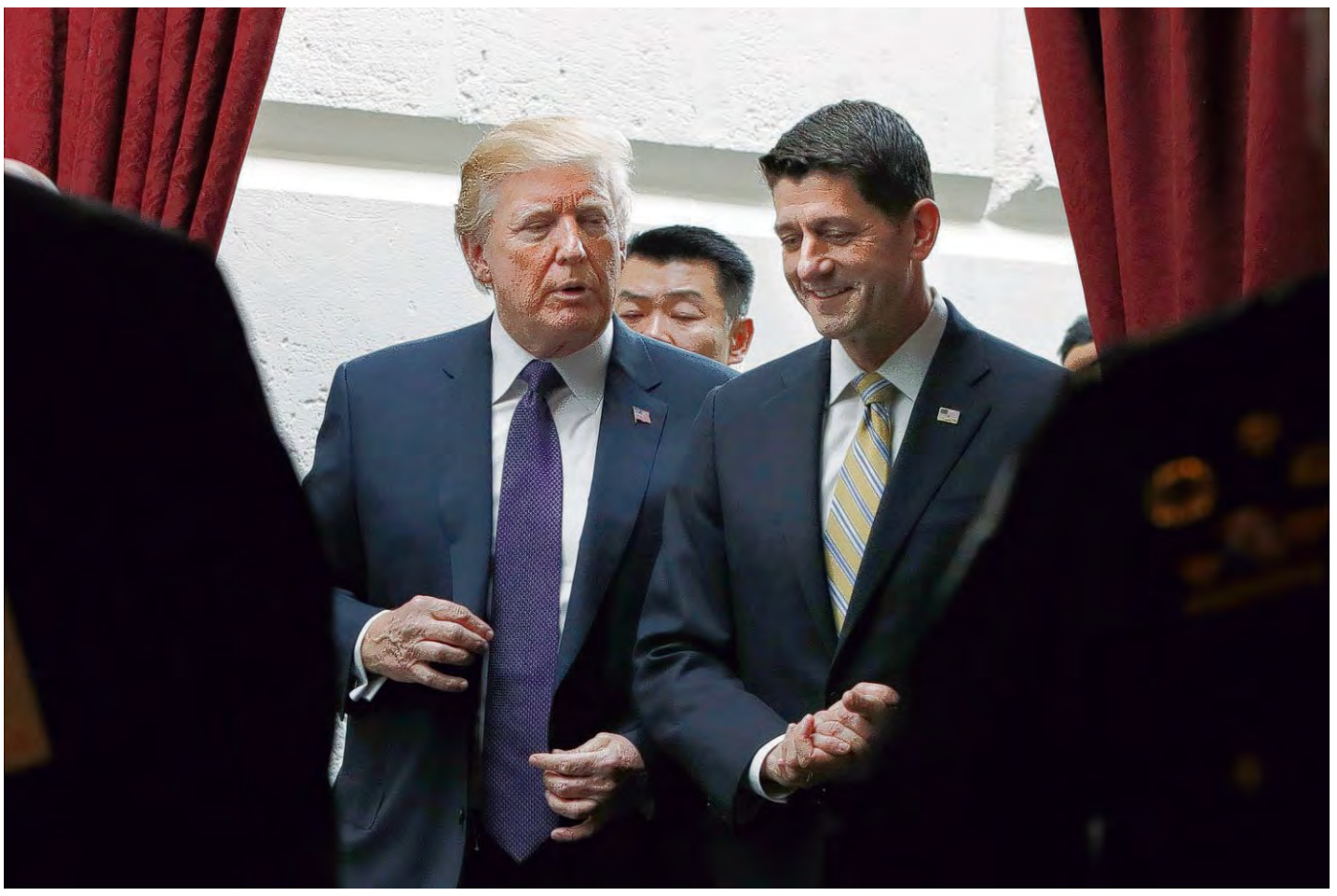
AF

House passes tax bill in step toward overhaul



JACQUELYN MARTIN AP

President Donald Trump, left, walks with House Speaker Paul Ryan on Thursday on Capitol Hill, where the president was urging passage of the tax bill. The House voted 227-205 to approve it.

BY THOMAS KAPLAN AND ALAN RAPPEPORT
New York Times

WASHINGTON

The House passed a sweeping rewrite of the tax code on Thursday, taking a significant leap forward as Republicans seek to enact $1.5 trillion in tax cuts for businesses and individuals and deliver the first major legislative achievement of President Donald Trump's tenure.

The House voted 227-205 to approve the bill, shortly after Trump came to Capitol Hill to address House Republicans.

Thirteen Republicans voted against the bill, and no Democrats voted for it.

The tax overhaul still faces significant obstacles, as Republicans must align the House legislation with a bill that is working its way through the Senate Finance Committee this week. The bills contain big differences that will have to be bridged.

Republicans are under pressure to get legislation to Trump's desk by Christmas, especially after failing in their attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act this year, even though their party has full control of government. Lawmakers also want to push the legislation through quickly to avoid giving lobbyists and Democrats time to mobilize.

Republicans do not wish to witness a replay of their health care catastrophe, during which

SEE TAX BILL, 7A

MORE INSIDE

Sen. Al Franken apologizes for groping radio host in 2006. 4A

ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE

Builder set to seize property

BY JOHN MURAWSKI
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The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is set to start seizing private property in North Carolina early next year to build its proposed 600-mile natural gas pipeline from West Virginia to North Carolina.

The energy consortium, which includes Charlotte-based Duke Energy, said this week that about 20 percent of 2,900 landowners whose properties lie in the path of the proposed underground pipeline have not signed voluntary agreements to allow their land to be used for the project, including an estimated 200 property owners in eight North Carolina counties.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline can begin legal condemnation proceedings against holdout property owners as soon as it has received all state and federal permits. This week a spokesman for pipeline partner Dominion Energy said the Atlantic Coast Pipeline expects remaining state permits to be issued by mid-December, reiterating recent comments Dominion CEO Tom Farrell II made to Wall Street analysts.

The regulatory approvals would clear the way for tree removal, boring, trenching and other construction for the pipeline. The project, already a year behind schedule, is expected to start moving natural gas in the second half of 2019.

While the Atlantic Coast Pipeline has undisputed legal authority to use private land for the project, the looming court actions against rural residents touch on sensitive issues of property rights and farming traditions. The Wilson Times newspaper published an editorial denouncing the pipeline's corporate "land grab" and lamenting the sacrifice of "purloined property."

Nash County crop farmer Marvin Winstead Jr., who has refused to cooperate on pipeline access, says he's being subjected to "psychological warfare." He believes the underground pipeline will compromise the quality of the soil for years and resents out-of-state lawyers and agents dictating the terms of his farm. He said he has no intention to voluntarily cede his property for the project.

"They talk to you as if you're as dumb as a bump on a log," Winstead said. "It's a very well-rehearsed and practiced orchestrated effort."

SEE PIPELINE, 5A

Wake leaders hope new school will help redefine community

■ Officials think a joint elementary school-YMCA complex will be so successful that it could change perceptions of economically struggling Southeast Raleigh.

BY T. KEUNG HUI
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RALEIGH

Wake County school leaders hope to change the conversation about Southeast Raleigh, which they worry is seen as an area plagued by crime and poverty, by naming a new elementary school after the community.

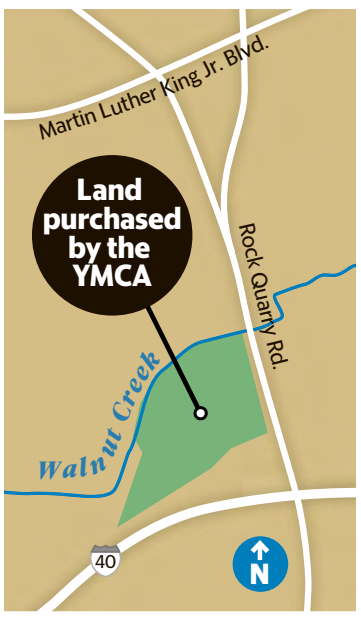
A Wake school board committee recommended Wednesday using Southeast Raleigh Elementary as the name of a new joint school and YMCA of the Triangle facility scheduled to open in 2019 on Rock Quarry Road.

School and YMCA leaders hope the project, on land bought by the YMCA, will be so successful that people will think more positively about Southeast Raleigh, one of the most economically depressed parts of Wake County. Test scores of students who live in Southeast Raleigh are well below the district average.

The school/YMCA is part of a complex at the former Watson's Flea Market that will include more than 70 units of affordable housing and space that could include a health care facility and a grocery store.

"I am looking for this to be a model for closing achievement gaps, preparing people for economic success and building a community that's different from any other place in Wake Coun-

SEE SCHOOL, 7A



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